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EDGAR SNOWDEN.

FRIDAY MORNING, MARCH 4, 1859.

In one of his recent letters, published in the Richmond Enquirer, Judge John Robertson says:—

"A bolder doctrine than even that of the 'Precedents' has been recently broached in the Senate chamber. One of the sworn supporters of the Constitution (Mr. Pugh, of Ohio) is reported as having said that 'the progressive energy of the American people was not to be repressed by any government; and when our system of government should fail to respond to the spirit of the people, it would inevitably give place to something nobler.' Something nobler than our system of government! The Senator, it is to be hoped, for the happiness of mankind will give us his new system. All must acknowledge the grandeur of the conception."

Certainly, by all means, let us have the plan of the proposed substitute for our present system of government! We should be in favor of killing the Cuba scheme stone dead at once, if it were only for the purpose of seeing and knowing what is laid up in store for us by the indignant filibusters, "Cuban patriots," speculators, land grabbers and their agents, who are to be produced at the proper time. We want to have their "nobler" system brought face to face with, as the rival and antagonist of, our Constitution and Union! We want to see if Cuba is on one side and "our present system of government" on the other, which is to outweigh. We have always believed that we have some politicians who think that we ought to get something "nobler" than our present Constitution.

The Washington Union is not disposed to let Congress off, with all its sins of omission and commission, without a severe rebuke.—Accordingly, it pours into the Legislative Department the following broadside, which may be considered as rather a rough parting compliment from the Executive:—

"Congress has paid no attention to the President's representations; and is now within three days of adjournment, dilating voting appropriations in the face of a bankrupt treasury and a failing credit.—A business man that would conduct affairs in such manner would be thrown into a lunatic asylum, and his property transferred to trustees for safe keeping.—Amidst all this extraordinary history we hear scarcely a word or tone of anxiety about the honor of the nation, which is thus threatened with bankruptcy and ruin. Are we so rich as to be indifferent to what we do? Are we so poor that measures cannot save us? Is it true, indeed, that the nation is overruled by a cold, selfish partisanship—by a wicked and disgraceful scramble of ambitious and corrupt politicians who are as insensitive to the necessity of maintaining the national honor as they are deaf to every consideration which does not lead to their own individual advancement? We cannot believe in the reality of what, in this respect, is too apparent. The sober second thought may yet come; but vast injury to the public credit has already been done. It is estimated that the Federal Government is three per cent. less than the Federal Government has been under proper legislation by Congress. The Government of Austria, embarrassed by an immense public debt and threatening a European war, has just negotiated a loan on terms more favorable than the rates at which our securities are held in the public markets of the world. If we ask why this is the answer to 'Change is, that Congress has ceased to exhibit the characteristics of statesmanship and has fallen to the low estate of political malice and intrigue."

In the House of Representatives, on Wednesday, Mr. Davis, of Indiana, made an ineffectual motion to introduce a bill amending the act for the admission of the State of Kansas. The bill proposed to repeal the restriction as to population. The vote was 100 to 87. A bill was passed making an appropriation for deepening the channel over the St. Clair Flats, in Michigan. The vote rejecting the Ocean Mail Steamer bill was reconsidered, and, after it was amended, the bill was rejected by a vote of 66 to 94. The report of the Committee of Conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Appropriation bill was concurred in by the House of Representatives, on Wednesday. The Senate having also concurred, the bill has become a law, it being signed by the President.

The Union says that the charge that the President had anything to do with the contract of Mr. Swift, for live-oak timber, is untrue; as is also the allegation that Mr. Platt's connection with that or other contracts of Mr. Swift was in any way known to or brought about by the President. He knew nothing and heard nothing of that connexion until long after it had ceased to exist.

A collision took place on the 2d inst., at Haverhill, Kentucky, resulting from an old political feud. Cicero Maxwell, esq., prosecuting attorney, while addressing the Court, was interrupted by Thos. S. Low, who grossly insulted the former. Some friends fired, wounding Low and killing John Alldredge. Low was committed to jail for protection from the mob.

Advices received from the African squadron to January 14th, say that the health of the squadron was generally good. The sloop-of-war Dale, after a cruise on the South coast, arrived at Porto Praya, short of provisions.

The Washington States says that, as the Washington Union is an organ of the Administration and not of the Democracy, it affects no surprise at its attempt to exculpate the President at the expense of the party.

The Senate has adopted an amendment to the General Appropriation bill, giving the Secretary of the Treasury the power to re-issue the outstanding Treasury Notes.

News of the Day.

"To show the every eye and body of the TIMES."

There is now a fear that the diplomatic part of our Paraguay expedition will fail, and the military wing of the same will be, if it has not already been, called into action.—The offer of the Government of Brazil to act as mediator in the dispute, though one very proper to be made by that government and to be accepted by this, cannot be now availed of. It is too late. Were it now accepted by this government, instructions to that effect could not reach Judge Bowlin for some weeks. The next thing we may hear of will probably be the attack of our steamers, with the Dahlgreen, on the fort above the three mouths.

The Theatre at Utica, in New York, was destroyed by fire early on Sunday morning last. It was a pretty little edifice costing from eighteen to twenty thousand dollars.—It had been occupied the night previous by a pantomime troupe, and it was closed by the man having charge of it about twelve o'clock. The inference is, that by an accident, fire was communicated to some of the scenery or trappings in the dressing-room.

Richard Randolph, a cousin of John Randolph, of Roanoke, died in Miami township, Ohio, on the 31st of January. The deceased who was as eccentric as his more celebrated cousin, was an old bachelor, and had resided on the Randolph tract, Ohio, for twenty-five years. He leaves a property, mostly in land, valued at \$80,000, to be expended in the purchase of the slaves now owned in the Randolph family.

The people of Smyth were favored with two speeches at the Court House on Tuesday last week. Col. R. B. Floyd first introduced them, announcing himself a candidate for Congress, subject to the decision of a convention. Gov. McMullin followed, and although he did not announce himself a candidate, he said he was in the hands of his friends. The plain English of which, to our mind, is that he will be a candidate.

The Marlboro Gazette says:—"The valuable tract of land, (900) acres belonging to the heirs of the late Col. Cross, adjoining the Mt. Calvert estate, about four miles from this village, was offered at public sale, on Monday last, by the trustee, Wm. B. B. Cross, esq. The first bid was \$60 per acre—and the bidding finally reached \$74.50 cents, when the land was withdrawn by the Trustee."

Recently at Montevideo, whilst a French frigate was returning an American salute, one of the gunners had his arm blown off.—As soon as the fact was known in the American squadron a subscription for him was started, which produced, among ten ships, the very handsome sum of \$1,100. The French admiral acknowledged with many thanks the gift to the seaman.

The East Baltimore Conference (M. E. Church), commenced its session in Williamsburg, Pa., on the 2d.—Bishop Scott, of Wilmington, Del., presiding. Rev. Dr. Sargent, of Baltimore, was elected secretary.—One hundred and sixty preachers answered to their names. The attendance is large and the session promises to be one of dispatch and harmony.

Mr. W. S. O'Brien now in Washington, is a tall, athletic gentleman, about fifty-six years of age, and his manners are rather English than Irish, as he lacks the warmth for which the Emerald Isle is celebrated.—He is said to have displayed considerable power in debate when he was a member of Parliament.

The Cumberland Civilian says that another ordinance has been reported, in the Board of Councilman, which provides that all trains and locomotives shall be piloted through the limits of the corporation, a distance of two miles, by a man or horse; that the Company shall have eight watchmen to guard the streets and put up twenty lamp posts.

George L. Holland, has been appointed postmaster at Orleans, Fauquier county, Va., vice Jacob P. Weaver. Benjamin Leach, postmaster at Sandy Hook, Rappahannock county, Va., vice Arthur M. Smith. James H. Stiff, postmaster at Port Conway, King George county, vice W. S. Payne.

The number of American sea-going vessels reported during the last month as missing, wrecked or otherwise lost, amounts to 30 of all classes, namely: 1 steamer, 2 ships, 6 barks, 8 brigs, and 13 schooners. Of these 4 were abandoned, 4 are missing, 17 wrecked, 3 sunk, and 2 burnt.

James S. Watson, a prominent citizen of St. Louis, died in New Orleans, February 25th. He was for a long time a successful merchant, and at the organization of the Southern Bank of St. Louis, in March, 1857, he was elected president of that institution, and continued at its head until his death.

The Eastern (Md.) Stars says the fruit buds in that section have commenced to swell, and had not the last snow checked them, some of the peaches would have been in blossom in a few days. Heavy frost would now be of great injury to the fruit, especially the peach crop.

A gentleman direct from Charleston S. C. mentions that the orange trees are in blossom, pea-vines growing vigorously, and that last Sunday the windows of the various church edifices remained open throughout the day.

George P. Bond, son of the late eminent astronomer, has been appointed by the corporation of Harvard college to succeed his father as director of the Cambridge observatory.—He has for several years filled the station of assistant at the observatory.

Gov. Brown, Postmaster General, who has for some days been suffering from an attack of pneumonia, was, on Wednesday evening, somewhat relieved from pain, and hopes were entertained of his speedy recovery.

The mail received from Santa Fe, brings a copy of stringent laws passed by the Legislature of New Mexico to protect property in slaves, and totally prohibiting emancipation in that territory.

Advices from New York, say that the late United States 5 per cent loan certificates, sold at private sale on Wednesday for 103; and that the demand was greater than the supply!

The Boston Courier says that the crop of ice in that vicinity has been unusually large this year. The ice houses are filled, and a large quantity of surplus ice is stacked.

Rev. Mr. Spurgeon has abandoned his contemplated trip to America, certainly for the present year. So says a London paper.

Confagration in Memphis.

MEMPHIS, March 2.—Nearly half of one of the principal squares on Main street was burnt over last night, involving a loss of \$150,000. The buildings destroyed included the newspaper offices of the Eagle and Enquirer, the Avalanche, Ledger, Christian Advocate, Presbyterian, and Sentinel. The principal sufferers are Hutton & Clark, printers; W. H. Hunt & W. S. Sullivan, tradesmen; Heinrich & Hunt, tavernkeepers; and Joseph Teufel.—There was a partial insurance.

How the "Negro Agitation" has been used by the Democratic Party, "for effect."

Any body, who knows any thing of party history, knows full well that, since 1840, the Democracy South has never failed to make a handle of the negro question—never hesitated to proclaim itself the especial champion—the sole guardian of slavery; and never hesitated to charge upon the opposite party either initial evils and purposes in reference to that institution, or such an indifference to its growth and well being, as to make it a matter of extreme doubt, whether they ought not to be expelled in a body from the domains of the "Sunny South." Oh! the unquenchable affection the Democratic speakers and editors felt for this glorious and thrice blessed institution! Oh! the unimpeachable fidelity, the unswerving devotion with which they were closely to its fortunes—the more deeply, as those fortunes became more desperate! Oh, the countless myriads of Democratic patriots who not only poured out their breath, and their ink, in opposing the aggressions of Abolitionism, but who—if we are to believe them—were not only ready, but anxious to build a rampart with their dead bodies against its further progress Southward!—Words cannot tell, nor heart conceive, nor mind imagine, the pure, steadfast affection that Democracy entertained for slavery as a social, moral and political institution; or the holy horror, the bitter rage, the utter loathing, they each and every one felt against abolitionism, or abolition operation, in any form or in any degree; or the terrible anathemas and the virulent cursings they each day were wont to pour out upon it, and its upholders, or sympathizers, from the day each canvass commenced until election! We say till after election; for it is a notable fact, that as soon as election was over, all this proslavery thunder was carefully bottled up, to keep until another canvass required the uncorking of these vials of wrath.

The whole horse, which the Democratic leaders exhibited for the purpose of frightening the weaklings of their party into a complete subservience, was carefully put back in the stables, and well fed and cared for until another campaign would again call for his important services. As is so strongly urged in the able and patriotic letter of Valentine W. Suttill which will be given in our next, they essayed to denounce all who refused to worship at the altar of Democracy, as utterly unsound and unworthy of trust upon the peculiar institution of the South! In 1840, this all "negro" agitation was carried on by the decision by General Harrison, a native of Virginia, was an abolitionist, the proof being that he had left his native State and settled in Ohio—no credit being given for the fact that his long residence in that country as Governor before it was admitted as a State, had made that residence almost a matter of course. Consult, reader, the files of the Richmond Enquirer or any other Democratic paper of that day, and observe how urgently the South was sought to repudiate the man, son, and heir, of its most cherished affections upon Martin Van Buren—"that Northern man with Southern principles!"

In 1844, the same charge was rung out with still more shameless mendacity against Henry Clay—the son of Virginia, the statesman of Kentucky, the tried and ever true—whose name even at this day warms the heart, and quickens the pulse, of every genuine Whig of that period. Of all the poisoned shafts which political malice urged against this pride of American statesmanship, none was driven with more deadly effect, than this baseless charge of infidelity to the institutions of the State of his birth, as well as to those of the home of his adoption. Nearly every Democratic speaker or South charged him with the most utter abolitionism. Every Democratic newspaper was filled with the reiteration of this outrageous assumption; and every Democratic post-house patriot, parrot-like, repeated this most abominable of all of the abominable fabrications, that were raked up against the greatest and wisest, purest and noblest of Americans, that had lived since the days of Washington. What heart of Whig, but will remember, how the "Eagle" hovering in his pride of place, was hawked at and slain by the "mousing" political "owls" of this period!

In 1848, the same charge was made with the same effrontery against Gen. Taylor, himself a son of Virginia—a citizen of Louisiana, and the owner of hundreds of slaves, and was used with crushing force against him. In 1851, the same charge was again brought against George W. Summers, another native of Virginia, another slaveholder, one of the ablest statesmen and purest men of our Commonwealth. He like Gov. McDowell and Mr. Ritchie had, under the exciting events of 1852, made an emancipation speech. Those who remember the partisan force with which he made up charges of abolitionism had been urged against Mr. Clay and Gen. Taylor, can guess something of the delight with which Democracy revelled in the real, tangible abolitionism of Mr. Summers.

In 1852, the same charge was made against Gen. Scott, another son of Virginia, another owner of slave property (by family right)—not because he was inimical to the institution of slavery, but because Wm. H. Seward was inferentially connected with his nomination!

In 1855, Mr. Flournoy was dubbed, and "proved" an abolitionist, by the same guardians of slavery—the Whigs—simply because he aspired to the gubernatorial chair, and because his election would deprive this "celebrated" "pro-slavery" party of the State spoils.

In 1851, the same charge was rung out again in all its fury against Mr. Fillmore—why? Because he in 1838 wrote a letter which said "yes" to an abolition query.—This letter was paraded over and over again, and was mouthed over and over again by Democratic speakers—and these the same speakers and presses which now claim the statute of limitations in favor of ten years afterwards! In that essay, the very Whig and Abolition South was called upon to support "pro-slavery" Buchanan; and in default of compliance with this very modest request, was denounced either as an "abolitionist," or as "an ally of abolitionism."—Who does not recollect that?

In the same year, Kenneth Rayner, a true friend of the South and the owner of hundreds of slaves, was denounced as an abolitionist, and threatened with a mob when he came to this city. And John M. Botte was not only threatened with a mob punishment, but was to be actually hung as an abolition traitor, because he denounced the Kansas Nebraska bill, which Democratic Senator Hammond now denounces, as a fraud upon the South from the beginning!—Nobles Herald.

MISS DIX THE PHILANTHROPIST.—Miss Dix, of world-wide renown for her benevolence and practical philanthropy in the alleviation of suffering humanity, says the Raleigh Herald, has lately been in Middleburg, Georgia. She spent about a week with Dr. Green, the able Physician and efficient Superintendent of the State Lunatic Asylum. She expressed herself greatly pleased at the noble effort of the State for the relief of this class of unfortunate. The building, with its internal arrangements, she considers a model—the very best in the Southern States, and compares favorably with any in the Union.

The Gubernatorial Canvass.

The newspapers of Virginia have done a good deal of skirmishing during the last week or two, in advance of the regular campaign between the opposing candidates.—Some industrious gentlemen at Washington have been looking into Mr. Goggin's Congressional record, and what a triumph publishes to the world, the marvellous fact that he uniformly voted with the Whigs for Whig measures. Even the "whigs bill" for the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands had his support. But, more important still, he "once or twice" voted with Seward, Hale, and Giddings! We would like to know if Mason and Hunter and possibly Lettice do not commit the same impropriety every week. Or do these gentlemen feel bound to vote against a motion to adjourn, whenever it is submitted by an abolitionist?

The Democratic editors of Richmond, talk as if everything was in their hands, and they had full power to prescribe the issues and direct the whole campaign. They entirely forget that the other side will have a say in the matter. The Examiner proposes to crush out Goggin by overwhelming Summers and Ballard Preston with assault.—These gentlemen were in favor of gradual emancipation in 1831, and therefore Goggin is not a proper man for Governor! We do not perceive the force of this logic, and besides it may do some harm to Faulkner, to be denounced. The Examiner has determined upon another plan. It undertakes to tie Bots around Goggin's neck like the old man of the sea. Mr. Goggin will please be so accommodating as to carry any body the Enquirer may desire to fasten to him. A candidate for Governor might, however, bear about with him a worse death's head, than even Bots. He has lately enjoyed a signal triumph in having at least a part of his political course endorsed and approved of by some who were formerly loudest in denouncing him. He opposed the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, and foretold the coming of the "great day" when the South would be freed from the "curse of slavery." He has since been proved to be a Whig, and has never been anything else, proves the truth of our assertion.—Standard Spectator.

Pay of the British Cabinet.

A writer in the Philadelphia Press, who professes to be well posted, says:—"Against \$56,000 paid away in annual salaries to the Cabinet of the United States, we have to place \$287,500 per annum, received by the members of the present Derby Ministry.—Besides this, the Prime Minister, First Lord of the Admiralty, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and one or two other Ministers, have official residences, though they rarely occupy them. Moreover, the Lord Chancellor, whose salary is \$50,000 a year, receives a pension of \$25,000, on leaving office—an equivalent for having abandoned a lucrative profession to accept the Chancellorship, on the uncertain tenure of the political ascendancy of his party; for the rule is imperative, in Great Britain, that he who has once sat as Judge shall never go back to the bar. The President, Mr. Lincoln, and he added that the Secretary had already exceeded his authority, in chartering vessels."

Mr. Lettice read from his own speech on a former occasion to show that he then thought the joint resolution practically transferred the war-making power to the President. The executive had created, out of funds not given him, a fleet which Congress did not authorize him to create, and has gone on waging war without authority. Mr. Phelps, who was in New York, and had voted in the President's authority to use such force against Paraguay as he deemed expedient, and he read from a last year's speech of Mr. Ritchie, wherein it was said the President would act on the authority of Congress, and he believed the expedition of a few small vessels would procure a settlement of the difficulty, and no necessity would occur for the employment of force.

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House of Representatives, March 2.

Mr. Bosack moved to amend the amendment appropriating \$175,700 for the charter of vessels for the Paraguay expedition, by giving the Secretary of the Navy authority to purchase these vessels—chartering these vessels for nine months, amounts to this sum. In making the contract, the Secretary should be authorized to charter the vessels at a price not to exceed \$100,000 more than the price of charter, and \$500 less than the charter price for fifteen months.

Mr. Seward did not think the constitution conferred the power to charter vessels for the expedition. He had seen the Secretary of the Treasury in the House today, suggesting this legislation to get out of the difficulty he has brought about. He would always put down his boat and lift his voice against interference with legislation.

Mr. Pettit protested against making any appropriations at all. He asked whether any Secretary could make the contract on any other authority than the joint resolution empowering the President to take steps for obtaining satisfaction from Paraguay.

Mr. Bosack replied that was all and sufficient. Mr. Pettit said the act of the Secretary was an usurpation of power not granted.—From the beginning of the controversy this government had not taken the right steps for obtaining a settlement of the question in controversy.

Mr. Clark, of N. Y., was not without an apprehension that the American people were in the wrong. If the President and Secretary of the Navy had a right to build a navy, they had a right to add additional regiments to the army. If the navy was insufficient, Congress should have been advised of the fact. This chartering and purchasing of worthless steamers was a private speculation carried on under the authority of the government.

Mr. Bosack said that Mr. Clark must pardon him if he could not sympathize with him in his personal distrust of the Secretary of the Navy. If these vessels were purchased, they could be sold, and every dollar saved to the government. He defended the conduct of the executive, showing that the joint resolution authorized the President to employ such force as he might think proper.

Mr. Davis, of Md., said the resolution virtually conferred on the President war-making power, and we are now beginning to reap the fruits of most improvident and hasty legislation. The executive had created, out of funds not given him, a fleet which Congress did not authorize him to create, and has gone on waging war without authority.

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The Right of Search.

BRITISH HOUSE OF LORDS, Feb. 17.—The Earl of Carlisle held that the principle contended for by Lord Alton, would be upheld by the House of Lords. That principle, as he understood it, only went the length of maintaining such a right as conducted to keeping up the police of the high seas.—That principle once denied or passed over, there was an end of any effective maritime police.

The Earl of Derby said that the Government only maintained that which nobody could deny, that this country, or any other country, had no right to board and visit the ships of any other nation; but they did maintain that this country was no less undeniably, and character of any vessel which there was cause to suspect. The true question was how was this last named right to be carried into practical working? In carrying it out there was great difficulty, for much rests in the discretion of the particular officer acting in each case. The object which his noble friend had in view was to come to a distinct understanding between the Governments of this country, of France, and of the United States, in order that the rights and difficulties in the exercise of this right might be avoided. That was the sole object. The Government neither advanced nor rights nor gave up those which they already possessed.

Lord Brougham said it was impossible to accede to the motion that a ship should only be visited by a vessel bearing the same flag if this was once admitted there would be an end to all search whatever, for a piratical ship would only need to hoist the flag of a nation which had no cruisers—San Marino, for